

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A positioning device comprising:
a casing having an opening and a process chamber kept in an environment different from the outside;
a table arranged in said process chamber;
a connecting portion connected to said table and extending through said opening to the outside;
a moving portion connected to said connecting portion outside of said process chamber;
a base for supporting said moving portion movably;
a differential pumping seal arranged between said casing and said moving portion; and
adjusting support mechanisms for supporting said base and said casing in a relatively displacing manner so as to hold a clearance between said base and said casing constant.
2. (Original) A positioning device according to Claim 1,
wherein said casing is placed on a surface plate, and
wherein said base is placed on said surface plate through said adjusting support mechanisms.
3. (Currently Amended) A positioning device according to Claim 2,
wherein said base is supported at three points or more by the support portions of said adjusting support mechanisms.
4. (Original) A positioning device according to Claim 1,
wherein each of said adjusting support mechanisms includes: a first adjusting portion for displacing said base and said casing in a first extent relatively to each other; and a second adjusting portion for causing the displacement in a smaller extent than said first extent.

5. (Currently Amended) A positioning device according to Claim 1,
wherein said adjusting support mechanisms include ~~hydraulic~~ ~~type~~ drive sources.

6. (Currently Amended) A positioning device according to Claim 1,
wherein said adjusting support mechanisms include ~~electric~~ ~~type~~ drive sources.

7. (Currently Amended) A positioning device according to Claim 6,
wherein said adjusting support mechanisms include ~~suppress~~ means for suppressing the
relative displacement of said base and said casing when no electric power is supplied.

8. (Currently Amended) A positioning device according to Claim 1,
wherein said casing includes a process chamber casing having a first opening for
~~involving accessing~~ said process chamber, and a seal plate having a second opening and arranged
between said process chamber casing and said moving portion,

wherein said connecting portion extends through said first opening and said second
opening, and

wherein an O-ring or a bellows is so arranged between said process chamber casing and
said seal plate as to enclose said first opening and said second opening.

9. (New) The positioning device according to claim 1, further comprising work.